

When the flower expanded, it was seen to be perhaps the most remarkable one ever seen, and probably one of the rarest aberrant forms noted.

The foliage and stem growth were quite normal, with the hairiness of the average plant. The labellum was also of normal form, size and colour, as were the two dorsal sepals behind the labellum. The dorsal sepal, which is placed at the back of the column was normal, except that the clubbing at the end was more pronounced.

But it was in the two petals that the variation was first so extraordinary. The narrow petals were replaced by two very broad ones, of the exact size of the labellum: the colours were identical with those of the labellum, only that the serrations on the edge were not quite so regular. The petals ended in a finely curled tip, instead of the callous tip on the labellum. There were no calli on the petals, an interrupted colour line of purple taking their place.

But the most extraordinary development occurred in the reproductive organs. Normally an orchid carries its reproductive organs on a single structure known as the "column," in which the anther with the pollen grains is situate at the top, with the stigmatic surface placed below.

In the specimen under notice, the anther and the stigma were placed definitely on separate "columns" or stems: the anther had a very definite filament, while the pistil and the stigma were separately distinct.

Such an occurrence in orchid flowers must be exceedingly rare; indeed, this specimen may probably be unique.

The production, on the part of this flower, of separate reproductive organs is very hard to explain. Some would say that it is an attempt to show the descent or the development of the floral organs of an orchid; others will describe it as mere "freakishness." Whatever it is, the flower is very interesting, and it is certainly worth recording. The illustration by Mr. W. H. Nicholls records the occurrence very faithfully.

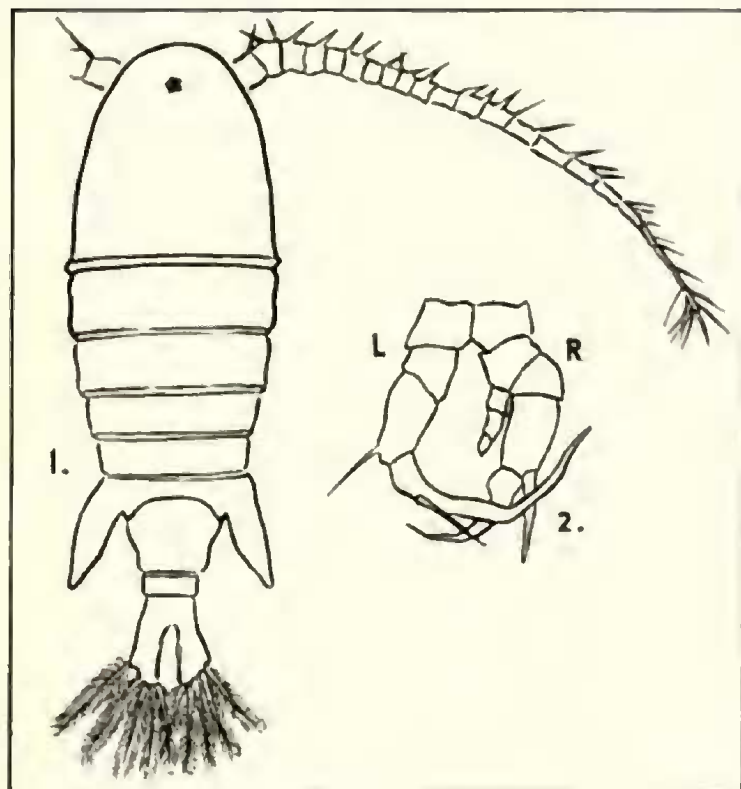
VICTORIAN COPEPODA

By J. SEARLE

The specimen described here was found at Warburton in May, 1910, and named provisionally *Boeckella major*. For some reason or other, probably for want of leisure to sketch it, the description and figure were never published, and for the last twenty-eight years it has appeared on lists of specimens taken on excursions of this and other clubs under its manuscript name, *Boeckella major*.

This remarkably handsome *Copepod* is found in many places

along the Yarra valley and is the largest of our fresh-water *Copepods*. It is very variable in colour, sometimes being red, at others blue or even particoloured, the front half being blue-violet and the hinder part red. It is a slow swimmer, and is never found in shoals, seldom more than three or four being taken in a cast



Boeckella major.

1. *B. major*, ♀. 2. Fifth thoracic legs, ♂.

of the net. It is generally found swimming near the surface of the pool in which it lives. It is so conspicuous that after a flood in the Yarra I have sat on the top of a three-rail fence at Alphington, near where the paper mills now stand, and dipped up individual specimens of *B. major* with my net as they swam in the water at my feet.

In general appearance and structure it resembles *B. robusta* Sars; but differs in the female which is more oblong in shape, and the expansions on the last thoracic segment are much more divergent in *B. major*; and in the male there is a difference in the shape of the fifth thoracic legs.

Length ♀ 3.35 mm. ♂ 2.75 mm.

Locality.—Warburton, Alphington, Daylesford.